

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE****Tuesday, October 30, 2007**

Good morning. I am Jeff Ammon with the law firm of Miller Johnson, here on behalf of a Kalamazoo company named Kalexsyn. Kalexsyn is a medicinal chemistry start-up company that is an excellent example of a success story in the life sciences industry – an industry that is the key to Michigan’s economic future. The company and project that you would support by today’s legislative amendment have everything you would want for Michigan business: an expansion of a start-up company in the life sciences industry, creating highly paid jobs for skilled workers in a knowledge based industry, formed by two former Pharmacia chemists who found themselves suddenly unemployed when Pfizer closed its Kalamazoo research facilities in 2003.

Rather than move out of state, Dr. Robert Gadwood and his partner David Zimmermann chose to remain in Kalamazoo to become entrepreneurs. They formed Kalexsyn, an independent contract medicinal chemistry company. They started the company with other medicinal chemists who were also suddenly unemployed by Pfizer. Many of those chemists, like Kalexsyn’s two founders, had been with Upjohn for over 20 years, long before its merger into Pharmacia and later sale to Pfizer. Kalexsyn’s commitment to Kalamazoo is reflected even in its name, which is short for Kalamazoo Experts in Synthesis.

Only four years after its founding, Kalexsyn has now outgrown its 7,000 square feet of rented space. It broke ground this spring on a new headquarters that would roughly triple its space, increase its employment by 25% to 30% to support its sales that have increased by 180% (mostly from out-of-state customers). The project will cost more than \$4 million and will be completed by the end of this year.

Your support will allow Kalexsyn to continue its success story as a West Michigan leader in the life sciences industry.